

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal from issue of this application, entry of the Request for Continued Examination and entry of this Amendment.

The subject matter of this amendment was originally filed as an Amendment under §312 on January 20, 2005.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the previous allowance of the above-referenced patent application and discussion of the claims submitted for 312 amendment. Since entry of the 312 amendment could not be confirmed prior to the due date for payment of the issue fee, a Request for Continued Examination is filed with resubmission of the amended claims.

Regarding the present amendments to the claims, the subject matter of claim 15 was mistakenly cancelled in an authorized Examiner's Amendment as being non-elected subject matter. Applicants respectfully request reentry of the subject matter of claim 15, reproduced below. The subject matter of claim 15 is directed to vanadium species of the allowed genus of claim 4. The compounds of original claim 15 are presented in the form of new claims 20-39. The abbreviations have been replaced with full names for consistency with the other allowed claims.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein said vanadium compound is: VCp₂Cl₂, VCp₂Br₂, VCp₂I₂, VCp₂(N₃)₂, VCp₂(CN)₂, VCp₂(NCO)₂, VCp₂(NCO)Cl, VCp₂(NCS)₂, VCp₂(NCSe)₂, VCp₂Cl (CH₃CN)(FeCl₄), VCp₂(O₃SCF₃)₂, V(MeCp)₂Cl₂, V(Me₅Cp)₂Cl₂, VCp₂(acac), VCp₂(hf-acac), VCp₂(bpy), VCp₂(cat), VCp₂(dtc), VCp₂PH, or VCp₂H.

wherein the specification at page 7 provides:

acac, acetonylacetonate

Bpy, 2,2' Bipyridine

Hf-acac, hexafluoroacetylacetonate

Cat, catecholate

Dtc, diethyl dithio carbamate

Phen, penanthroline

PH, N-phenyl benzohydroxamic acids

H, acetohydroxamic acid

It is respectfully requested that the following amendments be made to the application upon acceptance of the Request for Continued Examination. If any additional issues arise that prevent a first action allowance and the Examiner believes a telephone conference would be beneficial with regard to the above amendments, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: February 16, 2005

By: Anne M. Murphy
Name: Anne M. Murphy
Reg. No.: 54,327
(612) 371-5267
AMM:pll